

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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TAGS: EFIN, NATO, UK

SUBJECT: UK DEFENSE REVIEW

NOTWITHSTANDING THE UK'S COMPREHENSIVE PRESENTATION OF ITS DEFENSE REVIEW, THERE STILL REMAIN A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE SPECIFICS OF THE BRITISH PLANS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS THAT EMBASSY LONDON AND USNATO MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE:

A. UK OFFICIALS SAY BRITISH DEFENSE SPENDING WILL INCREASE SLIGHTLY IN REAL TERMS OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS. WHAT PERCENT OF ANNUAL REAL INCREASE DOES THE UK ANTICIPATE?

B. WHAT WILL BE THE LEVEL OF THE UK'S TOTAL DEFENSE SPENDING, BY YEAR, FOR 1975/6 THROUGH 1984/5, BASED ON THE NATO DEFINITION OF DEFENSE SPENDING, IN CURRENT AND CONSTANT PRICES?

C. HOW MANY MILITARY AND CIVILIANS DOES UK PLAN TO

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ELIMINATE BY SERVICE AND MAJOR COMPONENT? BY SERVICE, HOW

MANY MILITARY PERSONNEL OUTSIDE OF THE UK AND CENTRAL
EUROPE DOES THE UK INTEND TO ELIMINATE FROM THE FORCE?
HOW MANY WILL BE RETAINED IN THE FORCE?

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D. AS WE UNDERSTAND UK'S PLANS, BRITISH GROUND FORCES CUTS

IN THE UK WILL INVOLVE PRIMARILY OR EXCLUSIVELY THE NATO-
EARMARKED, AIR-PORTABLE UNITS THAT CONSTITUTE THE UK'S
STRATEGIC RESERVE. OUR INTERPRETATION OF BRITISH PLANS
INDICATES THERE WILL BE LITTLE OR NO REDUCTION IN THE
LARGE NUMBER OF ARMY MILITARY PERSONNEL IN HEADQUARTERS,
SUPPORT AND MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES IN THE UK. IF THIS
IS CORRECT, WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING WHY THE
BRITISH HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO OR HAVE NOT CHOSEN TO REDUCE
SOME OF THESE UK-BASED NATIONAL OVERHEAD PERSONNEL
INSTEAD OF THE NATO COMBAT FORCES.

E. SIX LSTS UNDER ARMY COMMAND WERE NOT MENTIONED IN UK
PRESENTATIONS OF ITS DEFENSE REVIEW. IN VIEW OF PLANNED
REDUCTIONS OF OTHER MAJOR AMPHIBIOUS SHIPS (LPHS AND
LPDS), IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO KNOW WHAT UK PLANS FOR THESE
SHIPS.

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